



SERVE Illinois

N E W S L E T T E R

A Prevention First, Inc. publication

October 2005

'Volunteering is hip' 2005 National Conference Celebrates Volunteerism

More than 2,500 national service and volunteer leaders gathered in our nation's capital in August to attend the annual National Conference on Volunteering and Service. It is the largest gathering of service and volunteer networks in the country. Through workshops, general sessions, exhibits, "town hall" gatherings and informal get-togethers, attendees were able to share information, gain skills, and develop strategies to recruit more volunteers.

The Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service was represented at the conference by commissioners Dan Bassill and Jocelyn Dionisio (also a Volunteer Center of Illinois member) and by Illinois Department of Human Services/Commission staff members Kim Fornero, Michael Gaines and Scott Niermann. Several commission grantees and national-direct grantees were also in attendance, including Julie Haupt and Mandy Guinn of the Belleville AmeriCorps program and Rebecca White of the ABC AmeriCorps program at Sauk Valley Community College.

During the opening session, rock star Jon Bon Jovi declared that "volunteering is hip." Other speakers included ABC News political commentator Cokie Roberts, and Robert L. Woodson, founder and president of the National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise.

Attendees overwhelmingly agreed that the conference was worthwhile. Haupt said she liked the networking evening at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History, while White made mention of the numerous opportunities "to become updated on hot issues" affecting volunteerism and community service. Dionisio appreciated the "practical tools to bring home that will help me in volunteer management." Commissioner Dan Bassill summarized by saying, "A gathering of so many people, from all parts of the country and all dedicated to volunteerism and service, was energizing!"

Bob Goodwin, CEO of the Points of Light Foundation, and David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), were very visible and accessible throughout the conference, conversing with attendees and presenting both corporate and individual awards. Points of Light Foundation, CNCS, and the Volunteer Center National Network sponsored the conference.

Spirit of Service Awards were given to 13 individual volunteers – including one from Illinois. Janessa Pierce, an AmeriCorps*NCCC member from Stockton, received this honor. As a first-year AmeriCorps*NCCC member, Pierce was selected to lead a team of wildland firefighters. Shortly after her firefighting service ended, Hurricanes Ivan and Charlie hit Florida. Pierce volunteered to lead a disaster-relief team; the need was so intense in Florida that Pierce extended her commitment in Florida from three weeks to two months and persuaded her teammates to do so, too. In total, the team installed temporary roofs for 412 families during their service.

Commissioner Dan Bassill indicated he would like to see more celebrities and corporations doing what UPS, Polo Ralph Lauren and Jon Bon Jovi are doing. UPS was honored with the first-ever Corporate Spirit of Service Award for providing the principal private support of the



Legacy Corps' Director Elaine Pfluger at the conference.

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Want volunteer information? Go to www.illinois.gov/volunteer

Message from the Secretary



The school year is upon us again! Also at this time of year, AmeriCorps programs across the state kick off their new program year, and welcome new and continuing members from diverse backgrounds and with diverse experience to help with a variety of projects in Illinois. AmeriCorps members, as you may know, serve in the areas of education, public safety, health, homeland security and the environment.

The DHS and the Commission are looking forward to the statewide kickoff of these good works at the annual Opening Day Ceremony in Bloomington. Every October since the inception of AmeriCorps, some 500 members and program leaders from every corner of Illinois convene at the Interstate Conference Center in Bloomington – and this year is no exception. Participants at the conference are able to hear an inspiring message from our keynote speaker, network with other members from different parts of the state, and attend training sessions in the areas of stress and time management, team building, conflict resolution, professionalism and volunteerism. If you are an AmeriCorps member, host site or program staff, please join us for this wonderful celebration on Oct. 26.

On a more solemn note, our thoughts and prayers go out to those affected by Hurricane Katrina and to all those continuing to help in the recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast. Illinois DHS employees have participated in a special statewide giving campaign to help the relief effort financially. In addition, DHS and the State of Illinois have sent numerous supplies including cots, blankets and bottled water to the devastated region, as well as expert personnel to help process claims ranging from unemployment benefits to food stamps. Illinois AmeriCorps members have already been serving our fellow citizens (from offices based outside of the disaster area) in Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama through the American Red Cross and other organizations helping coordinate the relief efforts. The road will be long for the residents affected by this storm – perhaps the worst natural catastrophe in our nation's recorded history. We are thankful for the efforts of those brave and self-sacrificing Illinoisans who have given of their time, talents and resources to assist those in need. [Illinois' response to Hurricane Katrina was no surprise to those of us who know this state and its people so well.](#)

The contents of this newsletter are a testimony to the good nature of the people of Illinois. To all who serve their community, state and nation through AmeriCorps or any other program that is getting things done across this great state, bless you! If you're reading this and are looking for a way to get more involved, I would encourage you to visit the commission's Web site at www.illinois.gov/volunteer and click on "Volunteer Opportunities" to find a Volunteer Center near you – and get involved! For as Winston Churchill once said, "You make a *living* by what you get, but you make a *life* by what you give."

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

Message from the Chair



At the July meeting of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS), we said goodbye to Commission member Robert Dwyer Jr. Bob did a tremendous job as Chair of ICVCS and we are grateful to him. I have since assumed the position of Chair of the Commission and will try my best to fill his big shoes. The Commission will be very active in the upcoming year, including recruiting new

Commissioners to fill vacancies on the board. One of the most important tasks over the next few months is the development and implementation of the Unified Service Plan.

The Commission is charged with developing a 3-year Unified Service Plan for the state, which will be created through an open process with input from national service programs and other interested members of the public. A primary focus of this Unified Plan will be to ensure outreach to diverse community-based agencies that serve under-represented populations. The service plan will create or enhance networks and registries at the state level to maximize the capacity for volunteerism in Illinois. The first step of plan development is to systematically develop key priorities to target. ICVCS is currently in the process of gathering input for setting these priorities and identifying essential stakeholders to inform the plan.

There are many sectors at the state and community level with a vested interest in advancing volunteerism, such as K-12 education, higher education, healthcare providers and the business community. The Commission will intentionally engage various sectors to identify their needs in building state and community capacity for volunteerism and community service in Illinois.

Other potential areas of focus for the Commission's goal of building capacity and enhancing volunteerism may include:

- Improve collaboration and coordination of volunteer opportunities at the local level.
- Enhance promotion of volunteerism opportunities (i.e. efficient systems for matching interested volunteers with appropriate opportunities).
- Maximize volunteer management (i.e. recruitment, retention, supervision, training, etc.).
- Improve communication between community-based organizations that utilize volunteers (creating networks and sharing information).

We will plan to publish the results of this process and an overview of the Commission's recommendations in a future issue of this newsletter.

Thank you for your commitment to service and volunteerism in the great state of Illinois. Together, we will continue to build upon past successes as we progress. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year.

Dave Lawrence, Chair
Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Services

Quick Facts

Medicare's New Coverage for Prescription Drugs

Starting Jan. 1, 2006, Medicare will offer prescription drug plans to help senior citizens pay for the medicines they need. Patients who sign up by May 15, 2006, will be eligible for the lowest premium costs.

What do I need to know?

- To get Medicare prescription drug coverage, you must choose and enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan.
- You can first enroll in a Medicare prescription drug plan from Nov. 15, 2005 through May 15, 2006.
- If you join by Dec. 31, 2005, your coverage will begin Jan. 1, 2006.
- If you join, your costs will vary depending on which plan you choose. In general, you pay a monthly premium (generally around \$37 in 2006) and a yearly deductible (up to the first \$250 in 2006). You will also pay a share of your prescription drug costs, and your plan pays a share. Medicare helps pay for drugs up to a limit of \$2,250 in total; once your total out-of-pocket costs for drugs reach \$3,600, you pay 5 percent of the costs and Medicare pays 95 percent of the costs for the rest of the year.
- Many people with limited income and resources will get extra help paying for their prescription drug coverage. People with the lowest incomes and resources will get the most help. If you are in this group, you will get information in the mail from the Social Security Administration or from Medicare telling you what to do.

What if I already have prescription drug coverage?

If you already have prescription drug coverage through your Medicare private health plan or other insurance, check with your current plan to see if this coverage is changing.

Unless you have other drug coverage that is, on average, at least as good as standard Medicare prescription drug coverage, it's important for you to join a Medicare prescription drug plan when you are first eligible. For most people, joining when you are first eligible means you will pay a lower monthly premium than if you wait to join until later.

How can I get more information?

Detailed information will be available in October 2005.
You can look at the "Medicare & You 2006" handbook,

visit www.medicare.gov

or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1.800.633.4227).

TTY users should call 1.877.486.2048.

For more information on who can get extra help with prescription drug costs and how to apply, call SSA at

1.800.772.1213

or visit www.socialsecurity.gov.

The mission of the **Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service** is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing volunteerism and community service.

Commissioners, appointed by the governor, represent experience in local government, labor, education, older adults, public health, non-profits, business, volunteerism and national service.



COMMISSION MEMBERS

(Web address - www.illinois.gov/volunteer)

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COMMISSION STAFF

Michael Gaines, Program Officer

Scott Niermann, Training Coordinator/Graduate Intern

IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT DHS

Steven Guerra, Director,
Division of Community Health and Prevention

Kim Fornero, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of
Community Based and Primary Prevention

2005 Presidential Freedom Scholarships

The Presidential Freedom Scholarship program recognizes high school students for outstanding leadership in service to their communities and neighbors. Each high school in the country may nominate two students to receive a \$1,000 college scholarship. The Corporation for National and Community Service provides \$500, which is matched with a \$500 scholarship from a community organization. More than 38,000 scholarships have been awarded to date to students who have strengthened communities by demonstrating outstanding leadership in service. Each recipient has completed at least 100 hours of community service, either through a school-based service-learning program or independently through service at a non-profit or faith-based organization.

The students from Illinois who received a scholarship and signed a publicity release form are listed here, along with the community organization that matched their scholarship. Congratulations to all those honored – Illinois salutes you! Keep up the good work!

Stacey **Allen**, Cahokia, *Rotary*, Rhiannon **Ardisana**, Riverside, *Riverside Brookfield HS Patrons Council*, Amanda **Auger**, Algonquin, *National Honor Society*, Zalnatia **Austin**, Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Jessie **Avilez**, Chicago, *Chicago Public Schools*, Shannon **Baillargeon**, Millsodt, *Belleville West Memorial and Endowment Committee*, Kathryn **Berger**, Albion, *Albion Moose Family Center #621*, Alexander **Broman**, Port Byron, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Miltriauna **Brown**, Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Emily **Buchinger**, Belvidere, *Panhellenic Society*, Natalie **Burke**, McLeansboro, *Hamilton County Rotary Club*, Emilia **Calvaresi**, Chicago, *Catherine and Joseph Lucchese Scholarship*, Anna **Campbell**, Bethalto, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Christopher **Chachakis**, Richton Park, *STARS Council*, Jenifer **Chapman**, Elgin, *Elgin High School Guidance Department*, Andrea **Clark**, Country Club Hills, *Kiwanis Club of Park Forest*, Jill **Clark**, Charleston, *Fraternal Order of Police*, Gennie **Cook**, Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Stephanie **Crane**, Belleville, *Regions Bank*, Bryson **Cruise**, Ohio, *Ohio Parent Teacher Organization*, Carie **Cunningham**, Macomb, *McDonough County United Way*, MacKenzie **DeMott**, Ipava, *American Legion Posts of Vermont*, Vincent **Dillard**, Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Joshua **Dunmire**, Decatur, *Coalition of Meridian Community Service Interests*, Rebecca **Ebert**, Kewanee, *Kewanee Schools Foundation*, Kelly **Eden**, Pontiac, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Kellie **Elmore**, Lebanon, *Lebanon Education Foundation*, Dina **Elmuti**, Charleston, *B+C Celebrities*, Nancy **Featherstone**, Franklin, *Franklin's Lions Club*, Lacey **Feezel**, Brownstown, *Brownstown High School Student Council*, Aidan **Feldman**, Oak Park, *OPRF Scholarship Foundation*, Deborah **Felsenthal**, Highland Park, *Deerfield High School Parent Teacher Organization*, Carrie **Francis**, Wilmington, *Wilmington High School Interact Club*, Rachel **Francis**, Wilmington, *Foundation for Excellence in Education*, Gabriela **Garcia**, Carpentersville, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Jessica **Gibson**, Bloomington, *Principals Association of McLean County*, Brock **Gittleson**, Franklin Grove, *Ashton Franklin Center FFA*, Thomas **Graff**, Fox Lake, *Grant Partnership for Academic Excellence*, Alberto **Guevara**, Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Andrew **Hansen**, Brookfield, *Riverside Brookfield HS Patrons Council*, Tommie **Hayes**, North Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Mindy **Hoffmann**, Highland, *Highland Lions Club*, Danielle **Huff**, O'Fallon, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Tanesha **Hughes**, Peoria, *Kiwanis International*, Ginny **Huot**, Alexander, *Katy Tannahill Memorial Student Service Scholarship*, Porchia **Jenkins**, Maywood, *Proviso East High School*, Candice **Jones**, Chicago, *Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority*, Kelsey **Judy**, Peru, *The PQ Corporation*, Melinda **Karczewski**, Peotone, *Peotone Community Scholarship Association*, Jessica **Kersey**, Blue Mound, *Coalition of Meridian Community Service Interests*, Jessica **Kirby**, Hamilton, *Kiwanis Club*, Katie **Kloess**, Park Ridge, *Ken Reese Senior Service Scholarship*, Melissa **Knackmuhs**, Albion, *Albion Moose Family Center #621*, Cali **Kosack**, Joliet, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Christopher **Kromphardt**, Spring Valley, *Walmart Distribution Center #6092*, Lindsay **Laatsch**, Arlington Heights, *Prospect High School Teacher Parent Council*, Justin **Lamar**, Lebanon, *Lebanon Education Foundation*, Derek **Lewis**, Cisne, *Wayne County Volunteers for Youth*, Bradley **Lindgren**, Algonquin, *Algonquin / LITH Rotary Club / Jacobs Interact Club*, Carolyn **Little**, Chicago, *Lambda Mu Omega chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha*, Whitney **Mackie**, Williamsfield, *Ralph C. Norman Foundation*, Blaine **Malcolm**, Wayne City, *Wayne City Ruritan Club*, Helen **Maldonado**, Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Elise **Maling**, Deerfield, *Deerfield High School Parent Teacher Organization*, Kasey **Marlow**, Bluford, *Bluford FFA Alumni*, Ricardo **Marshall**, Broadview, *Proviso East High School*, Travis **McCurdy**, Vermont, *American Legion Posts of Vermont and Table Grove*, Brian **McDonough**, Carol Stream, *Kaplan Chiropractic Associates*, Claudette **McIntosh**, Carpentersville, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Christa **Mitchell**, McLeansboro, *Hamilton County Rotary Club*, Sarah **Molt**, Fairfield, *Wayne County Volunteers for Youth*, Dustin **Moon**, Sullivan, *Sullivan Community Education Association*, Kara **Murphy**, Franklin Grove, *North Central College*, Jason **Musselman**, Toulon, *Stark County Education Foundation*, Tova **Nadoff**, Chicago, *Integrated DNA Technologies*, Max **Nash-Howe**, Macomb, *McDonough County United Way*, Drew **Negley**, Macomb, *West Prairie FFA Alumni*, Erica **Nelson**, Alton, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Carly **Nichols**, Rockton, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, George **Nikolaidis**, Arlington Heights, *Rotary Club of Wheeling Illinois*, Rachael **Nixon**, Aurora, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Kadeshah **Nolan**, Centreville, *Rotary*, Jennifer **Noncek**, Bartlett, *National Honor Society*, Margaret **Norris**, Quincy, *YWCA - Woman of Achievement Scholarship*, Jennifer **Novelli**, Cherry Valley, *Hiawatha Classroom Teacher's Association*, Tiffany **Olbrot**, Peotone, *Peotone Community Scholarship Association*, Kivalina **Osborne**, Oblong, *Ruritan National Foundation*, George **Outlaw**, Chicago, *Boys & Girls Clubs*, Nathaniel **Owens**, Robinson, *Robinson Rotary Club*, Sarah **Park**, Arlington Heights, *Wheeling D. C. Creigier Masonic Lodge*, Justin **Perry**, Palos Heights, *My Perfect Cruise*, Lindsey **Peterson**, Oneida, *Dorothy Pitman Scholarship*, Brittany **Phillips**, Jerseyville, *City of*

Jerseyville D.A.R.E, Brittany **Price**, Wadsworth, Boys & Girls Clubs, Natalie **Randall**, Springfield, New Bethel AME Church, Jermaine **Reed**, Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, Sade **Reese**, Chicago, Lambda Mu Omega chapter - Alpha Kappa Alpha, Sherry **Reiss**, Arlington Heights, Prospect High School Teacher Parent Council, Bradley **Richmond**, Oneida, Dorothy Pitman Scholarship, Delano **Robinson**, Bloomington, Boys & Girls Clubs, Jude **Roche**, Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, Michelle **Ryland**, Oregon, Kiwanis Club of Oregon, Thomas **Salzman**, Lombard, Glenbard East High School, Matthew **Sanders**, Wayne City, Wayne City Ruritan Club, Paul **Schmitt**, Fairbury, Prairie Land, Amber **Schwellensattl**, Belleville, Belleville West Memorial and Endowment Committee, Joshua **Shafer**, Noble, West Richland Academic Foundation, David **Sheats**, Chicago, Boys & Girls Clubs, Emily **Silkaitis**, St. Charles, St. Charles Noon Rotary, Cole **Singleton**, Mascoutah, Boys & Girls Clubs, Karen **Smith**, Williamsfield, Ralph C. Norman Foundation, Quinton **Sprull**, Chicago, Xi Nu Omega Chapter, Ryan **Stegink**, Park Ridge, The Midwest Presbyterian Church Fund Scholarship, Kathryn **Sunleaf**, St. Charles, St. Charles Noon Rotary, Reena **Tandon**, Bloomington, Normal Rotary, Adam **Tate**, Mt Morris, Kiwanis Club of Oregon, Chris **Thomas**, Belvidere, Belvidere Federated Women's Club, Jennifer **Tillery**, Bethalto, Boys & Girls Clubs, Katie **Trainor**, Forrest, Prairie Land, Emily **Ulm**, Geff Wayne County Youth Advisory Committee, Tamara **Vega**, Chicago, Boys & Girls Clubs, Elizabeth **Waddill**, Macomb, West Prairie FFA Alumni, Tanika **Wayne**, Sauk Village, Boys & Girls Clubs, Molly-Jean **Weber**, Pana, Delta Theta Tau, Amber **Weidman**, Mascoutah, Youth Employment Skills (YES) Program, Bethany **Wilsey**, Bloomington, Tri-Valley Education Assoc., Jonathan **Young**, Normal, Boys & Girls Clubs, Kimberly **Childs**, O'Fallon, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Ashley **Phillips**, Chicago, Pi Nu Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Save the Date!
Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration
 May 11-12, 2006 • Marriott Hotel, Oakbrook IL



**Volunteers...
everyday heroes**

Contact information:
 Sara Monroe 312.353.8197 or
 icovaconference@hotmail.com
 www.icova.org

SAVE THE DATE!

EVENT

Cross Streams Training on Sustainability

PARTICIPANTS

Illinois AmeriCorps*State & National, AmeriCorps*VISTA, Senior Corps(RSVP, FGP, & SCP), Learn and Serve (Community-Based, K-12, and Higher Ed) and Volunteer Centers of Illinois

HOSTS

Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and the Corporation for National and Community Service
 Illinois Program Office

LOCATIONS

Springfield:

Route 66 Hotel, 625 E. St. Joseph Street

Chicago:

Metcalf Building, 77 W. Jackson Blvd.

DATES

Springfield: December 8-9, 2005

Chicago: December 15-16, 2005

WORKSHOP SESSIONS

- Community-Based Fund Development
- Writing & Managing Grants
- Leveraging Volunteers
- National Service & Faith-Based Partnership Opportunities

AGENDA and REGISTRATION

Email: jlafollette@cns.gov to be notified when registration information is available.



AmeriCorps program directors from across the state met in August at Springfield's Hilton Hotel for two days of intense training for the upcoming year. The training, hosted annually by the Commission, is required for the state's grantees; national-direct program directors and site supervisors are invited to attend as well. Topics covered included the directors' policy manual, new rules handed down from the federal Corporation for National and Community Service, disability outreach training and best practices from some of the directors in attendance.



AmeriCorps team helps upgrade playground

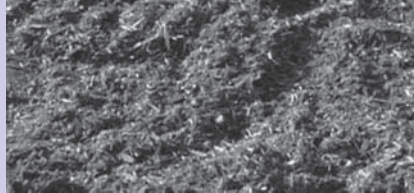
Children at Ina Grade School in Ina now have a great place to play thanks to a helpful grant and the efforts of a group of AmeriCorps volunteers.

Ed Ruffino, Rend Lake College AmeriCorps campus coordinator, said Ina Grade School recently received a Schwienfurth Grant to upgrade its playground area. Plans included cleaning the area, making a new ball field and purchasing new equipment.

Assistant Superintendent Sandy Gilliam contacted Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps Director Dave Warner to request help from RLC volunteers. Warner and Ruffino decided it would be a great service project for AmeriCorps members.

On Aug. 1, a group of 70 Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps members from across the state, including the Rend Lake College team, descended on Ina Grade School, rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Within a few hours, the team had cleaned up the playground, including the removal of several bricks and concrete fragments, laid down landscape fabric, and hauled and shoveled 64 yards – a trailer-truck load – of mulch.

Gilliam and other school officials said they were impressed with the AmeriCorps members' attitudes and work ethic. Said Warner, "It made quite a difference in the looks of the place. They did a great job."



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Volunteer Receives Service Award from President Bush

Linda Cesario of Arlington Heights couldn't believe her ears when she answered her phone and a White House staff member was on the other end with some great news. She was chosen from a group of nominees to receive the President's Volunteer Service Award!

The Volunteer Center of Northwest Suburban Chicago nominated Linda for her outstanding service to the community. She is a member of the center's speaker's bureau and its Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). She also conducts workshops on public speaking, volunteerism, parliamentary procedure, stress management and conflict resolution in the workplace.

Linda was nominated also for her deep commitment to and volunteer work on behalf of adult literacy. Her love of people and learning, and her approach to teaching have provided great strides of success for her students. She currently tutors 17 students

from eight different countries! She tutors through Township High School District 214's Read to Learn for a Brighter Future program, the Women's Center (a community education program of District 214) and the Literacy Office of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. Additionally, she is a volunteer librarian at the reading center at the Arlington Heights Senior Center.

On Aug. 10, Linda met President Bush at O'Hare Airport as he disembarked Air Force One. The president congratulated Linda on her good works and presented her with a special pin. In turn, Linda thanked the president for his support and promotion of volunteerism.

Linda and her husband Joe, who is also a kind and committed volunteer, were then invited to be V.I.P. guests of President Bush as he signed the Federal Transportation Bill. They flew in a helicopter to the signing and then back to the airport for his departure after the ceremony. Linda described the president as "warm and absolutely charming, a pleasant person you could genuinely feel comfortable with."

We congratulate Linda on winning this award, and thank her for all she does to enrich the lives of others. She gives of herself through community service between 40 and 50 hours every week. For this, Linda Cesario is truly an amazing lady.

Volunteer page 1

USA Freedom Corps Web site, www.freedomcorps.gov, the world's largest clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities.

David Lauren, senior marketing executive at Polo Ralph Lauren and son of designer Ralph Lauren, gave the keynote speech on the second day of the conference. He echoed Bon Jovi's sentiment that, "We're going to make volunteerism hip." Lauren talked about the Polo Jeans G.I.V.E. campaign, in which volunteers and their affiliate organizations are featured in slick ads that appear in national magazines. Each customer who buys a pair of G.I.V.E. jeans may select one of 43 charities to receive 10 percent of the purchase price of the jeans from Polo. Thus far, more than \$1 million has been raised for community causes.

At the closing session, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt noted the strong connection between volunteering and the overall health of the nation. "When we talk about volunteering," Leavitt said, "we're talking about the health of the nation – we're talking about its physical health, its moral health and its economic well-being."

Attendees also watched videotaped remarks by President Bush, who said, "By supporting the good works of good people with kind hearts, you are showing that America's greatest strength lies in the compassion, decency and generosity of our citizens."



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

October 12, 2005	Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference, Carterville
October 16-22, 2005	Kids Care Week www.kidscare.org
October 20, 2005	ICVCS Commission Meeting, Chicago & Springfield
October 22, 2005	Make a Difference Day www.makeadifferenceday.com
October 26, 2005	AmeriCorps Opening Day, Bloomington
November 19, 2005	National Family Volunteer Day www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nfvd
December 8-9, 2005	Cross-streams sustainability training, Springfield
December 15-16, 2005	Cross-streams sustainability training, Chicago
January 16, 2006	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – “A day ON...not a day off.” www.mlkday.org



SERVE Illinois is a publication of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. Send articles for submission and suggestions to:

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Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., *Secretary*
Illinois Department of Human Services

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